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## **Sen. Sikkema wants to focus on jobs and budget solutions, not politics**

**LANSING** – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, issued the following statement regarding the governor’s announcement that the 2004 budget deficit, the 2005 budget deficit and the Republican JOBS Action Plan must be handled separately.

“We are not interested in political brinkmanship. We are interested in working with the governor to solve this two-fold problem facing the budget, that of a short-term shortfall and a long-term issue of creating jobs in Michigan.

“We have a Democrat governor and Republican Legislature; neither party can dictate their own terms. We must compromise and work together to forge a win-win solution for Michigan families. To seek a political advantage when we should be working together will just create a scenario where no one wins.

“The approach Republicans support is no different than how the governor and Legislature worked together in December to balance the budget and provide businesses a tax incentive to help them provide healthcare benefits to their employees.”

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